CHARGES AGAINST HON. W. J. PURMAN.

July 28, 1876.—Recommitted to the Committee on Reform in the Civil Service and ordered to be printed.

Mr. DEBOLT, from the Committee on Reform in the Civil Service, by unanimous consent, submitted the following

REPORT:

FORTY-FOURTH CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION, IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, March 8, 1876.

On motion of Mr. HOAR, of Massachusetts-Resolved, That the charge contained in the following extract, to wit-"ANOTHER MONEY-MAKING CONGRESSMAN.

"Under this head the New York Sun prints the following telegram from this city: "" William J. Purman, a republican Congressman from Florida, so several witnesses have testified before the Naval Committee, has been increasing his worldly possessions by the sale of a naval cadetship and also some of the Federal offices in Florida; also, that he has received bribes for appointments, and has made his congressional position pay very well. Governor Stearns, of Florida, and Martin, the keeper of the State penitentiary, were the witnesses."—

be referred to the Committee on the Civil Service Reform, with authority to investigate the same and to send for persons and papers.

That the said committee further investigate the connection of said Purman with the appointment of timber agents in the State of Florida.

The committee having under consideration the foregoing resolution, find from the evidence-

That Mr. Purman made a proposition to Dr. Simpkins that if he (Simpkins) would contribute \$300 to the "Witherspoon electioneering fund," he (Purman) would appoint Simpkins's boy to the Naval Academy. Simpkins refused to pay until his boy secured the appointment. Purman said "he must have the money down," and thus the matter ended.

There was no money paid, neither was the appointment made.

Your committee further find that no bribes were received by Mr. Purman for appointments, and that the evidence wholly fails to establish the sale of Federal offices.

The committee find that Mr. Purman did recommend persons for appointment as timber agents in the State of Florida, and that those agents never performed any service under their appointments, except to draw their pay; that in some instances Mr. Purman notified them beforehand that they would have nothing to do; that the persons so recommended and appointed were all colored, and resided from fifty to one hundred and fifty miles from the timber reservations; that they, nor any of them, so far as the evidence shows, ever visited said reservations, nor even knew the location thereof; that the offices are mere sinecures; and that the appointments were made for political effect and purposes only.

All of which is respectfully submitted.